

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 01221 122315Z

63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SCCT-01 AID-05 CCO-00

NIC-01 OC-05 OPR-01 USSS-00 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01 SY-04

SCS-03 FBO-02 CU-02 SIL-01 LAB-04 /080 W

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P R 122230Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3894

INFO USCINCSO

DIA

JCS

USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L L I M A 1 2 2 1

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PE

SUBJECT: FEBRUARY 5-6 CIVIL DISORDERS; CABINET MEETS

1. PERUVIAN CABINET MET ON FEBRUARY 11, ALTHOUGH NO MAJOR DECISIONS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED. GOP DID ISSUE DECREE PROVIDING TAX BREAK AND CREDIT FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO SUFFERED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGES DURING FEBRUARY 5-6 RIOTS.

2. THE GUARDIA CIVIL'S DEMANDS FOR BETTER WORKING CONDITIONS, WHICH LED TO POLICE STRIKE SPARKING RIOTS, WERE UNDOUBTEDLY A MAJOR TOPIC OF CABINET DISCUSSION. GC IS REPORTEDLY ASKING FOR 1,000 SOL PER MONTH PAY RAISE, THE DROPPING OF CHARGES AGAINST ARRESTED POLICEMEN (563 ACCORDING TO FEB 12 COMERCIO) AND NEW MINISTRY TO INCORPORATE THE GUARDIA REPUBLICANA, INVESTIGATIVE POLICE (PIP) AND GC UNDER A GC GENERAL. PRESIDENT VELASCO, FOR HIS PART, IS REPORTEDLY READY TO NAME AN ARMY GENERAL TO HEAD THE POLICE, IF THE LATTER DO NOT HEED THE GOVERNMENT'S ORDERS. THE GC ISSUE IS BY NO MEANS
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SETTLED.

3. ON FEBRUARY 11 LIMA WAS FAIRLY QUIET DESPITE DAY-LONG RUMORS THAT TROUBLE WAS BREWING; MANY DOWNTOWN SHOPKEEPERS CLOSED THEIR STORES AS A RESULT. THERE WERE SOME MINOR INCIDENTS, HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO AN EMBASSY SOURCE. HE SAID THAT TWO BANKS WERE ROBBED BY UNKNOWN ASSAILANTS (FEBRUARY 12 PRESS CONFIRMS THESE ROBBERIES), THREE SHOPS WERE SACKED IN LA VICTORIA ISTRIC (EASTERN LIMA), AND VILLARREAL STUDENTS DEMONSTRATED (THERE APPARENTLY WAS A FIVE-MINUTE DEMONSTRATION BROKEN UP BY POLICE NEAR UNIVERSITY'S DOWNTOWN CAMPUS). THESE INCIDENTS IN NO WAY MEASURE UP TO THE VERSIONS OF EVENTS OF THE "BOLASZ CIRCULATED BY RUMOR MILL.

4. LATEST ISSUE OF TIME APPEARED ON NEWSSTAND TODAY WITH PAGE MISSING, PRESUMABLY THE MAGAZINE STORY ON PERU. LATEST ISSUE OF CARETAS IS ALSO APPARENTLY BEING DISTRIBUTED TODAY MINUS CENTERFOLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF ARMY'S HANDLING OF THE RIOTS WHICH THE INFORMATION OFFICE (OCE) ORDERED REMOVED AFTER THE MAGAZINE HAD BEEN PRINTED (PRESUMABLY 50,000 COPIES).

5. THERE ARE REPORTS THAT CENTRAL ZONE COMMANDER RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA'S AUTHORITY MIGHT BE RESTRICTED. WHILE THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS ON THIS POINT, RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN TAKING ORDERS DIRECTLY FROM PRESIDENT VELASCO, THUS BYPASSING JOINT STAFF COMMANDER GENERAL PRIETO AND PRIME MINISTER-WAR MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ. KNOWLEDGEABLE CIVILIANS HAVE COMMENTED UPON LATTER'S SILENCE INCLUDING ABSENCE OF COMMUNIQUE FROM WAR MINISTRY. THEY SAY THAT RESPONSIBILITY FOR FEBRUARY 5 BLOODSHED LIES WITH GENERAL RODRIGUEZ WHILE MORALES-BERMUDEZ' SILENT ATTITUDE MAKES HIM APPEAR LIKE A SORT OF PONTIUS PILATE. PRESIDENT VELASCO'S SILENCE SINCE THE FEBRUARY 5-6 DEMONSTRATIONS HAS ALSO BEEN CRITICIZED.
DEAN

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